

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
19 January 2006 (19.01.2006)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2006/007289 A1

(51) International Patent Classification: **Not classified**

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2005/019810

(22) International Filing Date: 3 June 2005 (03.06.2005)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/581,967 22 June 2004 (22.06.2004) US

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,
AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN,
CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI,
GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE,
KG, KM, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA,
MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ,
OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL,
SM, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC,
VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

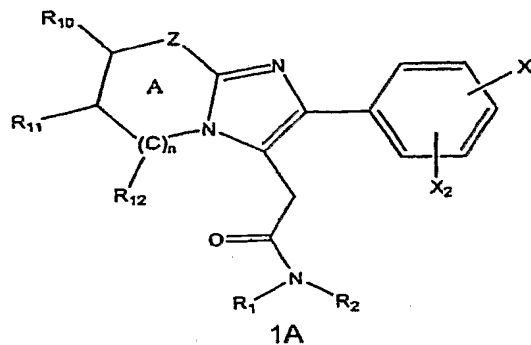
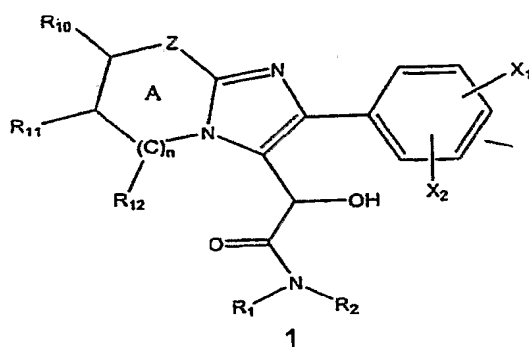
(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH,
GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM,
ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),
European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI,
FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO,
SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN,
GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— with international search report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: SYNTHESIS OF HETEROARYL ACETAMIDES FROM REACTION MIXTURES HAVING REDUCED WATER
CONTENT



(57) Abstract: An improved process for the preparation of a heteroaryl acetamide from a heteroaryl α -hydroxyacetamide is provided. The process comprises directly hydrogenating the heteroaryl α -hydroxyacetamide in the presence of a strong acid, a halide and a catalyst wherein the molar ratio of the starting heteroaryl α -hydroxyacetamide to water at the initiation of hydrogenolysis is at least about 2:1. In one embodiment, the heteroaryl acetamide is zolpidem and the heteroaryl α -hydroxyacetamide is α -hydroxy-zolpidem. Formulae (1) and (1A).

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